YO998137
09/070,831

REMARKS

Claims 10 and 41-61 are all the claims pending in the application. Claims 1-9, 11 and 23-40 are canceled and claims 41-61 are added, above. Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections based on the following discussion.

I.   The 35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph, Rejection

Claim 10 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. More specifically, the Office Action states that claim 10 does not clearly recite the relationship between the presentation and the received sensed event. In order to cure any ambiguity, the language that described that each rule was applied to the presentation "for each received event in response to the testing step" has been reworded so that the method applies "each rule that responded to the testing step" to the presentation to modify the presentation. Applicants respectfully submit that the forgoing amendments describe the same invention that was described previously, using language that is arguably more clear. It is Applicants' intention that the same invention be defined and that the claim amendments do not narrow the invention being defined. The amendments made to independent claim 10 are made principally to remove ambiguity and provide a clear definition of what Applicants claim as their invention and these amendments are not made in order to overcome prior art references or with the intention of narrowing the invention being defined. In view of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

II.   The Prior Art Rejections

Previous claims 1-5, 9, 11, 23-29 and 21-37 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Hunt (U.S. Patent No. 5,740,388). Previous claims 38-40 stood rejected

6

YO998137
09/070,831

under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Richmond (U.S. Patent No. 5,805,1560).
Previous claims 6-8 and 30 stood rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over
Hunt. The forgoing rejections are rendered moot by the cancellation of claims 1-9, 11, and 23-
40. Additionally, Applicants note that independent claim 10 was not rejected on prior art
grounds and that upon overcoming informalities, claim 10 should be allowable. Further, newly
added independent claims 41, 49, and 55 define the same invention defined by independent claim
10 (including additional and different features, and providing different claim scope). Therefore,
as shown below, Applicants respectfully submit that the invention defined by independent claims
10, 41, 49, and 55 is patentable over the prior art of record. Notwithstanding forgoing, and to
further speed prosecution, the applied references are distinguished from the invention defined by
the remaining claims in the following discussion.

A.   The Hunt Reference

Hunt discloses various systems for making customized videotapes. The first embodiment
described in Hunt (beginning at column 5 line 15) is a system that prepares customized
videotapes describing medical procedures to patients. With this system, a user must identify all
video segments that will be included within the tape. After all the video segments are identified,
the system automatically combines the video segments into a presentation.

In the second embodiment described beginning at column 7, line 31, a student can
prepare a customized video tape by selecting various tests questions. Video segments detailing
the correct answers to these test questions are automatically combined into a completed
videotape using the system disclosed in Hunt.

In a third embodiment, Hunt describes (beginning at column 8, line 36) that users can
select various criteria such as geographic area and price of real property. The system disclosed in
Hunt automatically searches storage of video segments and finds ones that match the search

7

YO998137
09/070,831

criteria. These video segments are then automatically combined into a presentation to complete the customized videotape.

However, with Applicants invention, the user can modify a previously generated presentation. For example on page 8, lines 6-7 and lines 17-18, Applicants' disclosure explains that a previously generated presentation can be modified. The present application describes (beginning on page 9, line 19 of the application) that a slide show is automatically modified by the invention. In this embodiment, the slide show is extended according previously created rules as shown in Figure 1D. In another embodiment described beginning at page 11, line 18, a previously generated presentation sequence is modified to include different content data, different temporal orders of presentation, different spatial layouts as well as different presentation attributes.

Independent claims 10, 41, 49, and 55 define such features using the following language: "applying each rule that responded to the testing step to the at least one presentation to modify the at least one presentation" (claim 10); "automatically modifying, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation document based on said rules to produce a modified presentation document" (claim 41); "automatically expanding, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation document based on said rules to produce a modified presentation document" (claim 49); and "automatically combining, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation document based on said rules to produce a modified presentation document" (claim 55).

Hunt is silent regarding any such features because Hunt is only concerned with the combination of previously-generated video segments into a customized videotape. Hunt does not teach or suggest modifying any of the previously-generated video segments. To the contrary, Hunt merely combines the previously-generated video segments into different combinations and different orders so as to make each of the individually customized videotapes. Therefore, as

8

YO998137
09/070,831

shown above, is Applicants position that Hunt does not teach or suggest the inventive feature of modifying a previously-generated presentation document as defined by independent claims 10, 41, 49, or 55.

B.   The Richmond Reference

Richmond describes a system whereby a user can enter words and phrases of interest. The system described in Richmond then searches for audio/video encoded streams and selects those streams that match the words and phrases input by the user. The audio/video encoded strains that match the words and phrases of interest are stored so that they can be later displayed to the user. A description of this is found in column 4 from lines 19 to 38.

However, while Richmond searches for and captures various audio/video streams, it does not teach or suggest modifying the previously-generated presentations as is performed in the claimed invention. Therefore, as with Hunt above, it is Applicants position that Richmond (alone or combined with Hunt) does not teach or suggest the claimed invention as defined by independent claims 10, 41, 49, and 55.

III.   Formal Matters and Conclusion

In view of the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 10 and 41-62, all the claims presently pending in the application, are patentably distinct from the prior art of record and are in condition for allowance. The Examiner is respectfully requested to pass the above application to issue at the earliest possible time.

Should the Examiner find the application to be other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone number listed below to discuss any other changes deemed necessary.

9

YO998137
09/070,831

Please charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Attorney's Deposit
Account Number 50-0510.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: _2/19/03_

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10

YO998137
09/070,831

Marked Up Version of Changes Made:

Please cancel claims 1-9 without prejudice or disclaimer.

10.   (Amended) A method for programmatic generation of continuous multimedia presentations by a station capable of receiving at least one presentation and a plurality of sensed events, the method comprising the steps of:

maintaining a library of rules;

receiving at least one presentation;

selecting at least one event to be sensed;

receiving the at least one event;

testing each rule in the library for each received event; and

[optionally] applying each rule _that responded to the testing step_ to the at least one presentation [for each received event in response to the testing step] to modify the at least one presentation [or to generate a new presentation].

Please cancel claims 11 and 23-40 without prejudice or disclaimer.

Please add the following new claims.

41.   A method of modifying previously-generated presentation documents, said method comprising:

creating a set of rules based on user input;

selecting a previously-generated presentation document to be modified;

automatically modifying, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation document based on said rules to produce a modified presentation document; and

11

YO998137
09/070,831

outputting said modified presentation document.

42.   The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing content of said previously-generated presentation document.

43.   The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing temporal order of sections of said previously-generated presentation document.

44.   The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing spatial layout of said previously-generated presentation document.

45.   The method in claim 41, wherein said modifying comprises changing presentation attributes of said previously-generated presentation document.

46.   The method in claim 41, wherein said previously-generated presentation document comprises continuous media components.

47.   The method in claim 41, wherein said previously-generated presentation document comprises audio and video components.

48.   The method in claim 41, wherein said previously-generated presentation document comprises static components.

49.   A method of modifying previously-generated presentation documents, said method comprising:

creating a set of rules based on user input;

selecting a previously-generated presentation document to be modified;

12

YO998137
09/070,831

automatically expanding, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation document based on said rules to produce an expanded presentation document; and

outputting said modified presentation document.

50.   The method in claim 49, wherein said expanding comprises expanding portions of said previously-generated presentation document.

51.   The method in claim 49, wherein said expanding comprises adding new data to selected portions of said previously-generated presentation document.

52.   The method in claim 49, wherein said previously-generated presentation document comprises continuous media components.

53.   The method in claim 49, wherein said previously-generated presentation document comprises audio and video components.

54.   The method in claim 49, wherein said previously-generated presentation document comprises static components.

55.   A method of creating a composite presentation sequence from at least two previously-generated presentation documents, said method comprising:

creating a set of rules based on user input;

selecting at least two previously-generated presentation documents to be combined;

automatically combining, without user intervention, said previously-generated presentation documents based on said rules to produce said composite presentation document; and

outputting said composite presentation document.

13

YO998137
09/070,831

56.　　The method in claim 55, wherein said combining process simultaneously presents said at least two previously-generated presentation documents.

57.　　The method in claim 55, wherein said combining process interleaves said at least two previously-generated presentation documents.

58.　　The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation documents include static objects and said combining process simultaneously displays static objects from different presentation documents.

59.　　The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation documents comprise continuous media components.

60.　　The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation documents comprise audio and video components.

61.　　The method in claim 55, wherein said previously-generated presentation documents comprise static components.

14